

THE FRUITS OF PERJURY.

IN ancient Times all Men were so Honest and Sincere that there was no Occasion of an OATH. In the *Apostles* time a Man's WORD was thought as good as his OATH; For the first Christians considered every thing as done and said in God's Presence, and that if they told a Lye they should be Immediately Punished. This was the Case of *Ananias* and *Sapphira*; They told St. PETER a Lye with an Intent to trick him in a Money Matter; And he told them, they lied not to Man but to GOD. *Ananias* immediately dropt down dead. The APOSTLE then told *Sapphira* that her Husband's Bearers were ready to carry her out after him. And he told her the Truth. For Apostles in those times always told the Plain Truth, and never disguised it with strain'd Interpretations and false Glises.

There is an Account in the *Turkish* History of a Peace made between *Vladislaus* King of *Hungary* and *Amurath* King of the *Turks*. By that time of day it seems Folks had learn'd to forswear themselves. The King of *Hungary* had sworn to a Peace with the *Turks* and broke it soon after. A Battle Ensued; And when the *Turks* were like to be beaten, *Amurath* pulls the Treaty of Peace out of his Bosom, opens it, and with his Eyes lifted up to Heav'n, falls on his Knees, and makes the following Prayer.

BEhold Thou Crucify'd JESUS, the League thy Christians made with me in thy Name, which they have without Cause broken, Now if thou art a God as they say thou art prove it, in thy Revenge upon thy Perjur'd People, who in their Deeds deny Thee their God.

CHRIST did immediately prove himself a God by the death of the *Hungarian* King, and the Defeat of his Army; and would certainly do the same again upon the like Occasion as the late old *Lewis* of *France* found to his Cost in the Ruin of his Armies, when he broke Solemn Treaties.

I am sorry to Say, that tho' we have felt God's Wrath in this long unreasonable Weather and extreme Scarcity, yet we are rather worse than better for these Judgments.

If they should continue, let me ask all harden'd Sinners in the Words of the Prophet, What will ye do in the End thereof? But whatever some Profane Persons may think, Sure I am, Dearth will never be prevented by Perjury.

'Tis said, with what Truth I know not, that People have taken Money for their VOTES. 'Tis also said, that a poor Man, who had taken the Money, Considered seriously he had Cut out a Piece of Work which he was afraid to finish, so Cut his own Throat. He had been told at first the OATH would never be offer'd him; When he found he had been told a Lye, having spent the Money, he justly feared he must either rot in a Jail here or be damned hereafter, which drove him to despair. Some of his pretended Friends it seems who ought to have known better, told him he had Mistaken the Sense of the OATH; To which he is said to have reply'd, they were Mistaken themselves, and had ruin'd him, soon after which he made this shocking Attempt upon his Life. 'Tis Wished he may recover, and be truly sensible of his Crimes.

These are the first Fruits of Perjury, which if it should continue, might bear still worse, For we may reasonably expect from God's Justice, that if Men should be so wicked as to Fly in his face by taking false OATHS over Night, their Wives might find them dead in their Beds by them the next Morning. Let us therefore pray in the Words of the *Litany*.

From Plague Pestilence and Famine, from Battle Murder and Sudden Death, from all Blindness and Hardness of Heart and Contempt of God's Word, from the Crafts and Assaults of the Devil (that Friend to Perjury and Foe to Mankind,) from God's Wrath, in the Hour of Death, and from Everlasting Damnation at the Day of Judgment,

Good Lord Deliver us.